The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (New). An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising two or more pluralities of pellets, said pellets comprising an active compound, wherein the pellets of each said plurality are coated to a different thickness, as determined by theoretical weight gain on coating, of a pH dissolution dependent coating material to those of the or each other plurality, whereby the active compound is released at different locations in the intestinal tract, and wherein said coating material is applied directly onto the surface of the pellets.

Claim 44 (New). The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material comprises a polymethacrylate material.

Claim 45 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 43, wherein the pellets of each plurality are coated with the same coating material as those of the or each other plurality.

Claim 46 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a methacrylic acid copolymer.

Claim 47 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.

Claim 48 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the polymethacrylate material is selected from a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2, a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:1 or a mixture thereof.

Claim 49 (New). The composition according to claim 43, pellets are coated with a methacrylic acid copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2.

Claim 50 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 43, wherein the pellet has a diameter in the range 800 to 1500μm.

Claim 51 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the pellets are coated with the polymethacrylate material to a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 5% to 30%.

Claim 52 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the pellets are coated with the polymethacrylate material to a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 10% to 25%.

Claim 53 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the thickness of polymethacrylate material coating pellets of each plurality of pellets is of increments chosen to provide a homogeneous release profile of the active compound along at least one selected portion of the intestinal tract.

Claim 54 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 43, further comprising an enterically coated capsule within which the pluralities of pellets are contained.

Claim 55 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 43, wherein there are two pluralities of pellets.

Claim 56 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 43, wherein a first plurality of pellets is coated to provide a theoretical weight gain of 15% and a second plurality of pellets is coated to provide a theoretical weight gain of 20%.

Claim 57 (New). The composition as claimed in Claim 56, wherein the first and second pluralities of pellets are present in a ratio of about 1:3.

Claim 58 (New). The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the active compound is released at locations before and after the ileo-caecal valve.

Claim 59 (New). The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of peptides, polypeptide agonists and antagonists of the immune system, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, hormones, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial agents, antiprotozoal agents, antiinflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics, prebiotics, antibiotics, bisphosphonates, cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators and antiparasitic agents.

Claim 60 (New). The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, human growth hormone, metronidazole, clarithomycin, gentamycin, ciprofloxacin, rifabutin, 5-aminosalicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, balsalazide, α-amylase, paracetamol, metformin, prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin, vincristine, methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporin and albenazole albendazole.

Claim 61 (New). The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, paracetamol, metronidazole and α-amylase.

Claim 62 (New). A composition, comprising:

a first pellet comprising an active ingredient and coated with a pH dissolution dependent polymethacrylate coating material, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material is contiguous with the surface of the first pellet;

a second pellet comprising an active ingredient and coated with a pH dissolution dependent coating material, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material is contiguous with the surface of second the pellet; and

wherein the first and second pellets are each coated with different thickness of coating material, as determined by theoretical weight gain on coating; and

wherein the active compound is released at different locations in the intestinal tract when administered to a subject.